

Line up:
Coco
Cleveland
Cal
Kitty

EMCEE: Hello, ladies and gentlemen!
Welcome to *Casina, or: Forgiveness*
Performed by the multiply lauded company
Full of seasoned, celebrated stage stars
And a troupe of tomorrow's top troubadours

And here they are, tonight's performers!

(The rest of the cast files out and waves from the sides)

Allow me to introduce, playing Coco Popkins,
The elegant (and salacious) Cici Le Garre!

(Cici comes out and begins striking poses with her fan)

Many of you have seen her grace this stage before

COCO: And if you have seen me,
You'd remember.
See you later, boys!

EMCEE: Playing her husband Collis Popkins,
The famously stonefaced Benjamin Barrow!
And his partner in crimes against comedy, playing Cleveland Stafford
The inimitable Horatio Q. Birdbath!

(With a musical flourish, they appear)

COLLIS: Well folks, we just came from New York and met the Yankees.

CLEVELAND: So now you know all the players.

COLLIS: I certainly do.

CLEVELAND: Well you know I didn't get to meet the guys. So you'll have to tell me their names, and then I'll know who's playing on the team.

COLLIS: Oh, I'll tell you their names, but you know it seems to me they give these ball players now-a-days very peculiar names.

CLEVELAND: You mean funny names?

COLLIS: Well, let's see, we have on the bags, Who's on first, What's on second, I Don't Know is on third...

CLEVELAND: That's what I want to find out.

enter

Hat

Came

COLLIS: I say Who's on first, What's on second, I Don't Know's on third.

EMCEE: Guys, guys! (*The music stops.*)

Totally copyrighted. One hundred percent. (*The music continues*)

AND NEXT we have the illustrious

The sensational Dame Rosalind Gilroy

Fresh from an (ahem)

Abruptly ended tour

With the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Gloria appears holding a skull.

GLORIA: How all occasions do inform against me,

And spur my dull revenge! That is the question

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow

Creeps in this petty pace from day to day.

Was ever woman in such humor wooed?

I'll drown my books.

So, good night unto you all.

Give me your hands, if we be friends,

And Robin shall restore amends.

EMCEE: Thank you, Mrs. Gilroy.

GLORIA: DAME!

EMCEE: Dame! Gilroy.

And playing the household servants Cal and Butler

Two rising stars,

In six months they'll be household names

And you all can say "You saw them when"

The Alsatian Sensation

Jean-Michel Von Neuschwannstein

And Francis "Feather-arms" McGee!

(To some resounding vaudeville music, Cal and Buster perform a typical "skinny strongman" act, in which Cal is miraculously and easily able to carry a massive dumbbell)

EMCEE: Thank you gentlemen,

And finally, the cast's darling

Who will tap her way into your hearts

Ida Truelove!

(Kitty comes out and starts to tap... in her own unique fashion. She is quickly hooked off)

EMCEE: Thank you, everyone!
And now that you've met our actors,
Please meet our characters!

Run to Gypsy Men

(As he speaks – fairly quickly – the actors move about to illustrate what he's saying)

*Crouch.
Pop up*

EMCEE: Gloria and Cleveland Stafford are husband and wife
Living next door to Collis and Coco Popkins
They take care of a beautiful young girl Marguerite (*ding*)
Cleveland and their son Cleveland Junior both fell in "love" with the girl
So Cleveland sent Junior off on a trip
(to Gloria's side) Your champion, Gloria wants Marguerite (*ding*)
To marry the butler Cal, while they wait for Junior to get home.

Turn, wave

GLORIA: Friends,
Let's show these horrible men
Who really wears the skirts!

(to Cleveland's side) But your champion, Cleveland senior wants Marguerite (*ding*)
To marry the farmer, Buster, so that they can both have a little fun.

CLEVELAND: Gentlemen

Our wives may take our money, our food, and our dignity
But they will never take OUR FREEDOM!

EMCEE: That's enough of that
Without further ado
We give you, *Casina*!

